(d) if not, the facts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) the total production of cereals in these four States ranged from 45% to 50% of the total production in the country during the years 1998-99 to 2002-03.

Sugar Production

1641. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDYSIRIGIREDDY:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of sugar in 2003-04 is less when compared to 2002-03;

(b) if so, the production of sugar in 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(c) whether Government are thinking of allowing private sugar mills to import sugar from other countries to meet the domestic demand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production of sugar in 2002-03 and 2003-04 was 201.32 lakh tonnes and 139.58 (Provisional) lakh tonnes, respectively.

(c) and (d) Sugar is an O.GL. (Open General License) item, inviting a tariff rate of 60% *ad valorem* and Rs.850/- PMT countervailing duty and can be imported by the trade as per their commercial prudence.